

Raising Your Own Waterfowl



Country Living Expo & Cattlemen's Winterschool
Emmett Wild

Why Raise Ducks?

- Fast growing, eat slugs
- Fun personalities
- Hardier than chickens, love our climate!





Brief History

- Ducks were first domesticated in SE Asia 4000 years ago, later in Egypt and Europe, then S America
- 133 species of wild ducks
- Domestic ducks 1-15 pounds

Wild Mallard



Wild Muscovy



Muscovy



Appleyard



Saxony

Heavy Ducks



Pekin



Aylesbury



Rouen

Swedish



Crested



Ancona

Medium Class Ducks

Buff



Cayuga



Dutch Hookbill



Runner



Magpie



Light Class Ducks

Welsh Harlequin



Runner



Campbell



Call



Mallard



Australian
Spotted



Bantam Ducks

East Indie



Mandarin



Wood Duck



Why Raise Geese?

- Large and fast growing
- Fun personalities
- Free range well
- Hardy, and tolerant of our weather!



Brief History

- Geese were first domesticated over 4,000 years ago in Egypt
- Independently domesticated in Europe, Asia, and North Africa
- Wild geese weigh 7-10 lbs
- Domestic geese can weigh up to 26 lbs



Swan Goose



Graylag

Goose Breeds: Three Classes

- Heavy
- Medium
- Light



Toulouse

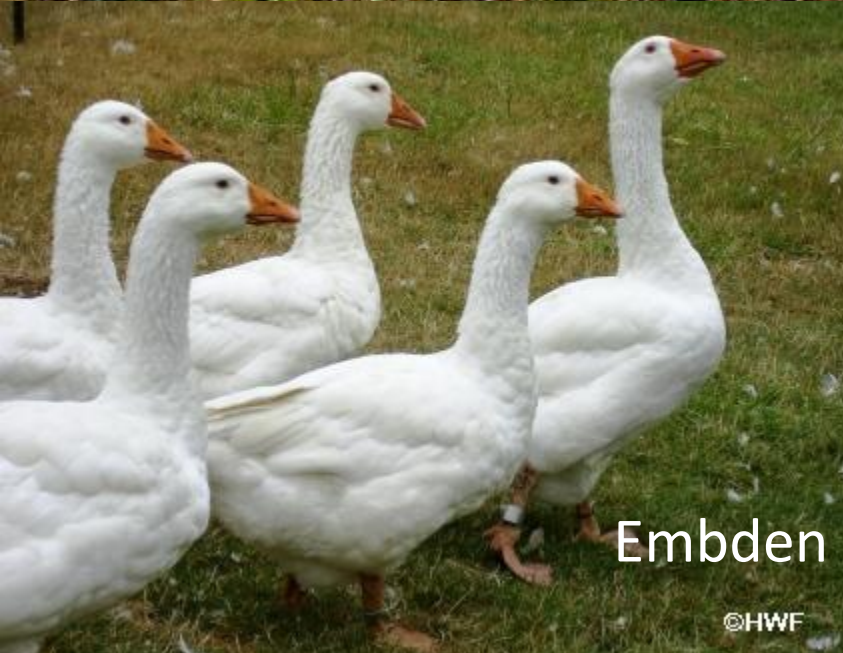


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African



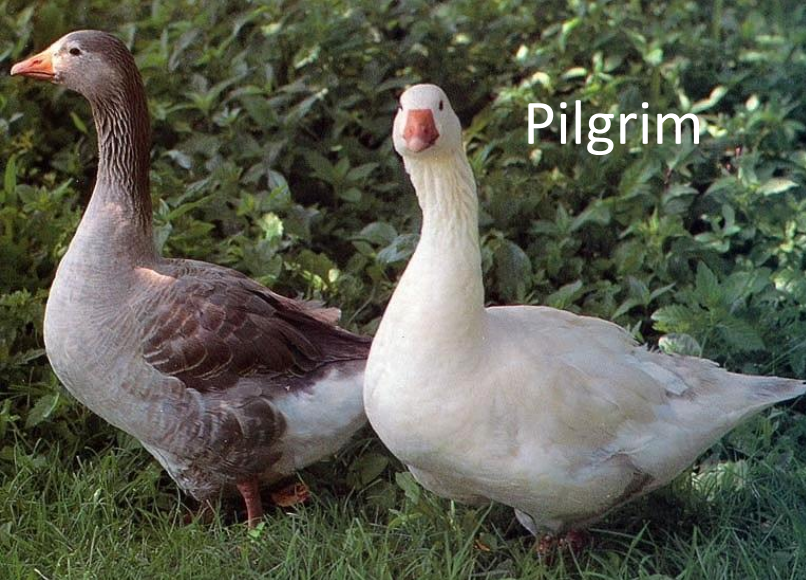
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Embden

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Heavy Class



Pilgrim



Sebastopol

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Steinbacher



American Buff



Medium Class

Grey Saddleback Pomeranian

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White and Brown Chinese

Egyptian



Tufted Roman

Light Class

Canadian



Where to buy Goslings?

- Feed stores
- Hatcheries
- Breeders



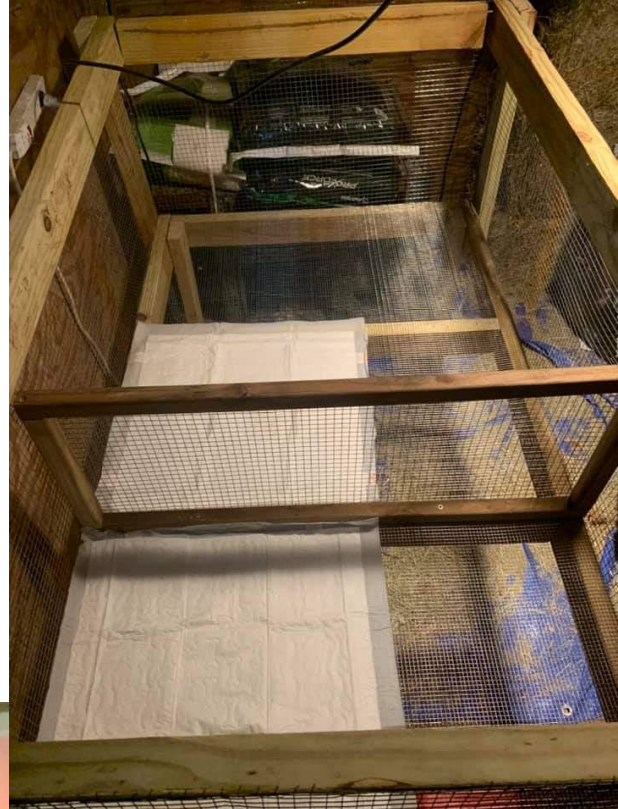
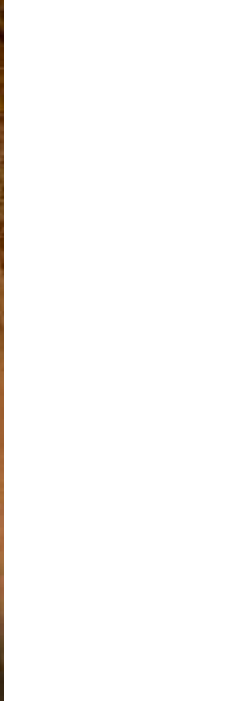


- Hatcheries ship ducklings in batches of 15
- Goslings in batches of 5

Duckling & Gosling Care

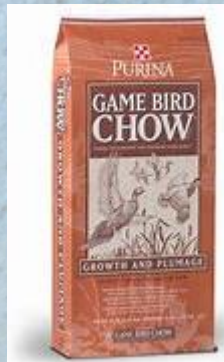
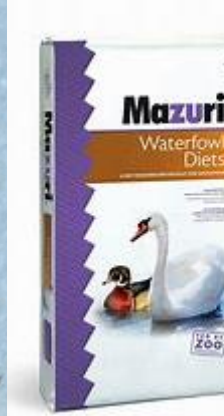
- Ducklings & goslings should be kept in a draft free, predator proof pen for the first 4 to 6 weeks
- Feed high protein chick starter feed
- Protect from elements & predators





Feed

- Chick Starter Crumble
- Grower
- Layer
- Flock Maintenance
- Pellets vs. Crumbles
- Feeders
- Fresh Water



Feed

Age/stage	Nutritional needs	Notes	Emmett's top feed recommendation
0-2 weeks old	18-20% protein Ca:P =1:1 B-vitamins recommended	Feed a crumble and finely chopped fresh greens	-Flock Raiser crumbles
3-8 weeks	16-18% protein Ca:P =1:1	Switch to pellets Watch for leg/wing deformities	-Conway Broiler Pellet -Flock Raiser Pellet
9-13 weeks	16% protein Ca:P =1:1	Begin transition to mature duck feed	-Conway Broiler Pellet -Flock Raiser Pellet
Laying (Feb-July & Sept-Oct)	16-18% protein Ca=3% P=0.65%	Increase protein w/ increasing heat Ensure high vitamins/minerals	-Mazuri Waterfowl -Gamebird Breeder
Holding/Maintenance (Nov-Jan)	14% protein Ca:P =1:1	Whole grains a good choice	-Mazuri -Gamebird Maintenance
Molting (July-Aug)	16-18% protein	Add oily foods for feather health Use oats to manage growth	-Gamebird flight conditioner -Oats -Cat kibbles

Housing

- Should protect birds from predators
- Should be easy to clean
- Should have place for feed and water
- Allow room for exercise
- Photo shows covered flight pens



Portable Pens

- Allows ducks fresh grass
- Stays clean



Housing

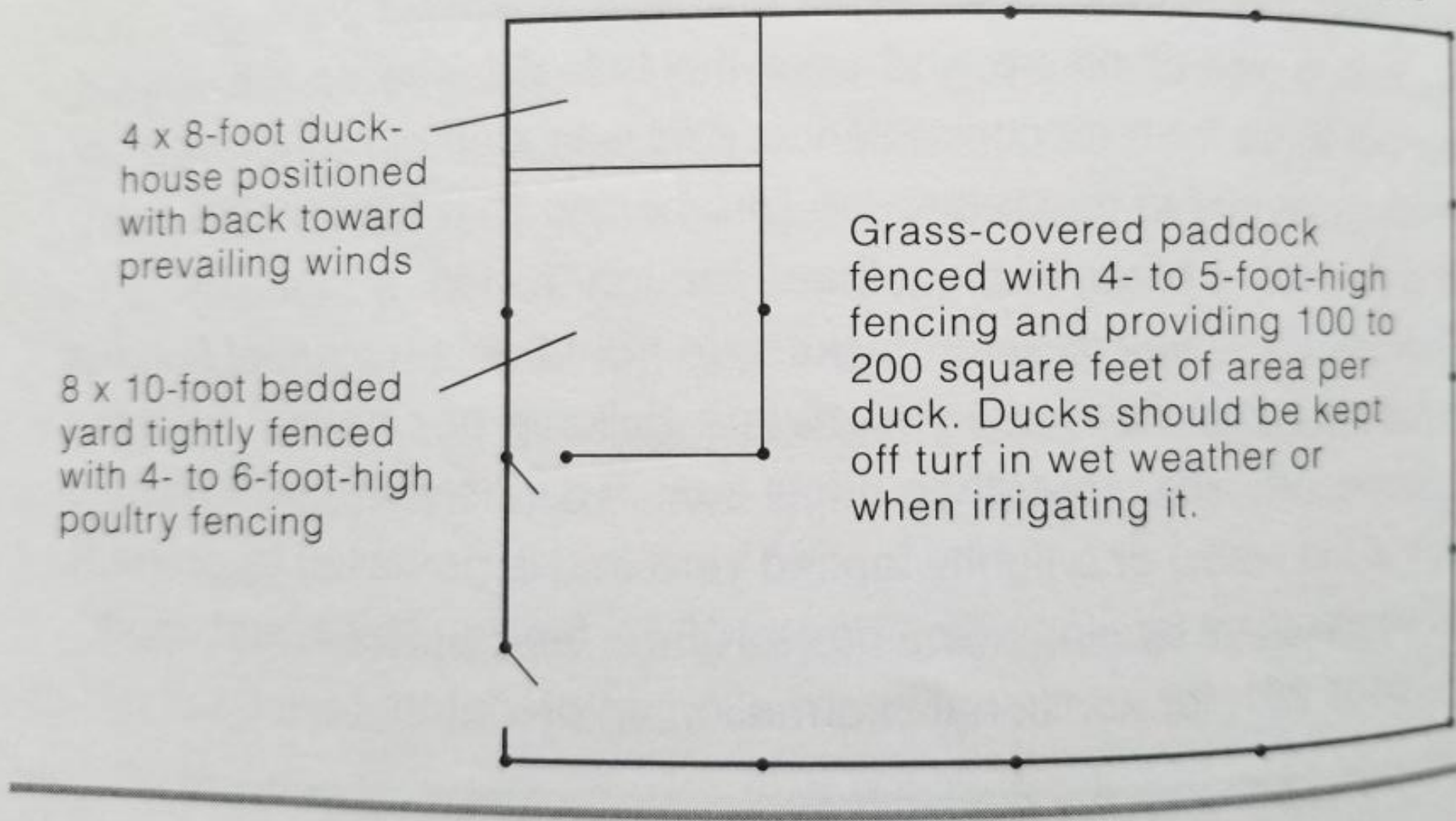


Triplex duck pen for small flock of 6 to 12 ducks


4 x 8-foot duck-house positioned with back toward prevailing winds

8 x 10-foot bedded yard tightly fenced with 4- to 6-foot-high poultry fencing

Grass-covered paddock fenced with 4- to 5-foot-high fencing and providing 100 to 200 square feet of area per duck. Ducks should be kept off turf in wet weather or when irrigating it.



Pools

- 
- A group of white ducks are gathered around a blue plastic pool. One duck is standing on the ground to the left, while several others are in the pool. A green garden hose is coiled around the side of the pool. The background shows a grassy area with some dry leaves.
- Provide ducks with bathing water
 - Not needed daily
 - Change water daily/weekly

Free Ranging

- Free ranging can reduce feed costs
- Birds can eat plant parasites and weeds
- Birds are happier and healthier
- Be sure to protect birds at night

Free Ranging, other considerations

- Predators
- Hidden nests
- Water quality concerns



Biosecurity

- Keep facilities clean
- Minimize contact with other birds
- Keep poultry dusts and sprays on hand
- Check your birds regularly for parasites
- Remove sick birds from the flock





Disease and Deformities



- Common waterfowl ailments
 - Caused by unsanitary living environment
 - Aspergillosis
 - Coccidiosis
 - Chronic wet feathers
 - Foamy eyes
 - Foot sores
 - Caused by diet
 - Angel wing or slipped wing



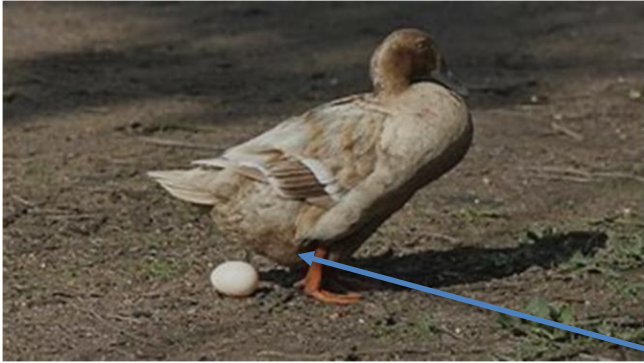
Butchering

- Butcher geese at 10 or 24 weeks of age
- Butcher ducks at 8 or 18 weeks of age
- Do not feed for 12 hours before butchering

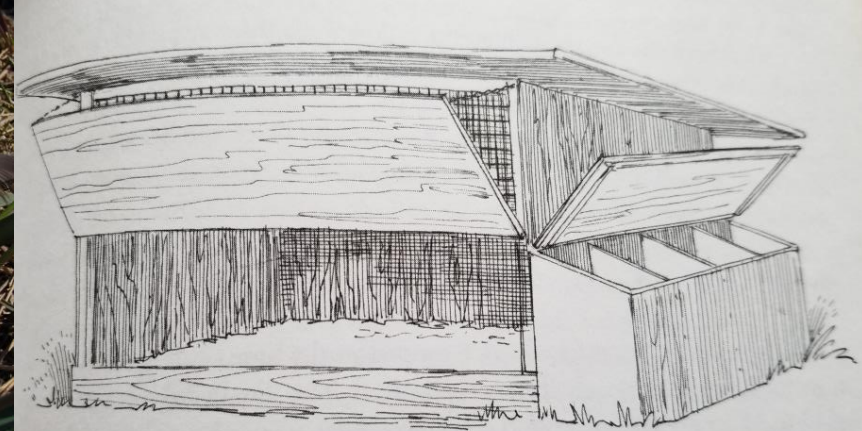


Egg Production

- Best production with 14 hours light
- Encourage use of nest boxes
- High quality feed
- Begin laying at 17-24 weeks



Well
developed
paunch



The attached nests on this practical duckhouse make egg-gathering easier.

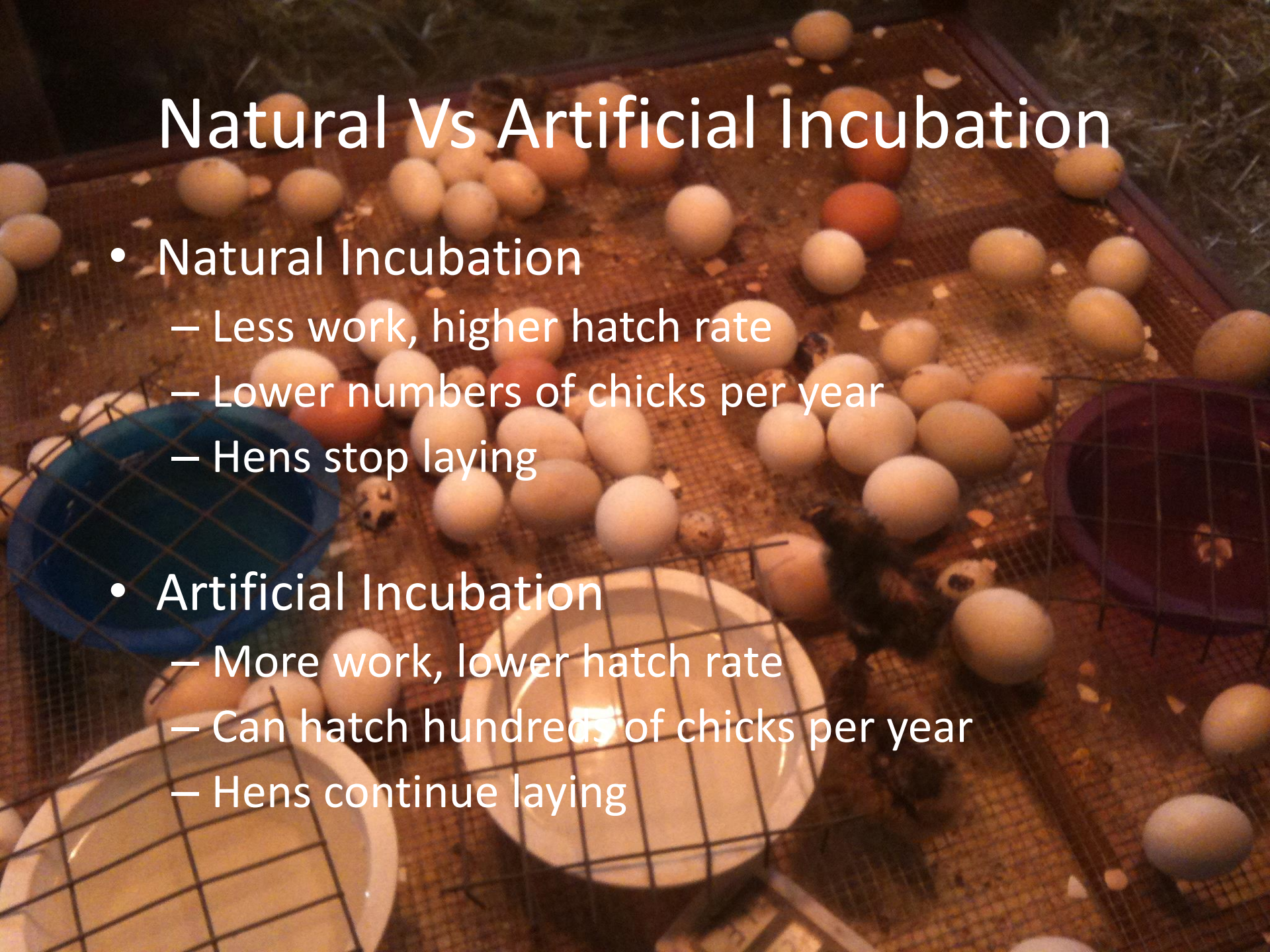
Breeding



- Select breeders that are:
 - Display good breed characteristics
 - Are free of physical deformities
 - Have strong growth rates and egg production

Natural Vs Artificial Incubation

- Natural Incubation
 - Less work, higher hatch rate
 - Lower numbers of chicks per year
 - Hens stop laying
- Artificial Incubation
 - More work, lower hatch rate
 - Can hatch hundreds of chicks per year
 - Hens continue laying



Natural Incubation

- Ensure brooding female has a pen to herself
- Ensure bedding and nesting material are clean
- Remove eggs if more than hen can comfortably set on (usually 5-12 eggs)
- Natural incubation usually results in higher hatch rate
- Broody birds will stop laying, and produce fewer eggs per year

Artificial Incubation

- Lower hatch rate, but more offspring per year
- Keep gathering eggs, and the birds keep laying
- Ensure high humidity for duck & goose eggs
- 99.5 degrees F
- 55% humidity for first 26 days, then 75% for remaining days
- Duck eggs take 28 days to hatch
- Geese take 28-35 days depending on breed

Enjoy Raising Waterfowl!



Questions?

